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Letter dated 5 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit the response of the Argentine Republic to the reply by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations to the statement made by Dr. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina, on 23 September 2008 during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

On 28 September 2008, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by Dr. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, the President of Argentina, on 23 September 2008 during the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, requested the circulation of a note (A/63/468) and of its annex.

The Government of the Argentine Republic strongly rejects the unfounded and offensive expressions used in the above-mentioned Iranian statement against the President of Argentina and head of the Argentine judiciary.

The Argentine Republic was the target of two serious terrorist attacks, which took a tragic toll with dozens of persons killed and wounded: in 1992, against the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires and in 1994 against the headquarters of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA).

In the context of the investigation conducted by the Argentine judicial authorities, the INTERPOL General Assembly, held in November 2007, issued an international arrest warrant for five Iranian nationals involved in the attack against AMIA, thus endorsing our country's position, based on the principles of international law and on international judicial cooperation.

In her statement during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the President strongly requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with the norms of international law and allow the Argentine judicial authorities to hold a public and transparent trial, with the guarantees provided by a democratic system, of the Iranian nationals accused of participating in the attack against AMIA. The President

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also urged Iran to grant the request made by the Argentine judicial authorities and supported by INTERPOL, which would help to shed light on this attack.

The Argentine Republic once again urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with the Argentine judicial authorities in order to elucidate the horrible attack against AMIA, in the belief that this will make a valuable contribution to justice and to full respect for human rights and human dignity.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this note as an official document of the General Assembly.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure: 1 diskette.